

A

# REVIEW

OF THE

# STATE

OF THE

# ENGLISH NATION.

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Saturday, December 7. 1706.

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I Have in some of my last Papers attempted to explain some things transacted in *Scotland*, and done by the general Assembly there, that is, by the Part of it now sitting, call'd the Commission; and to clear up the Mistakes of those People, who charge them not only with acting against the Union in general, but with making Attempts to obtain Clauses in the Treaty, invasive of the Liberties and Establishment of the Church of *England*.

I do not hereby pretend to say, that several Objections and Scruples are rais'd in *Scotland* against the Union, which I wish, the People that raise them, would consider better of, and particularly who they come from, whose Words they speak, and who blows the Coals; but yet I must at the same time be allow'd this, that even what

is said, and were it more, does not amount to what industriously is carried about in *England* by some People, to amuse and fright the Nation with Apprehensions of strange things out of the *North*.

And would the Gentlemen in *Scotland*, and some in *England*, but suffer me to put their Observations one against another, and compare them with the real Matter now in Debate, it would contribute very much to the enlightning the World in this Matter.

As first, say they in *England*, there are great Oppositions in the Parliament in *Scotland* against the Union, on Behalf of the *Presbyterian* Church, and 25 or 29 Lords and Gentlemen protested against the Act of Security, as not sufficient for the Church to defend Her against the Church of *England*.

Very

Very well, Gentlemen, this is very true, and yet this very thing, if rightly understood, or rather if consider'd, was enough to open the Eyes of both the Nations—And if I should say, that those 25, or suppose them 29, protested for a meer Love to or Care of the Church, it might only prompt *somebody* to ask me a Question or two, which would be very difficult for me to answer—As

1. If among the 29, there were not 22 at least, who never heard a Sermon in the *Presbyterian* Church in their Lives, and would be of the first, who should vote her Constitution into her former Condition of Ruin and Destruction—In short, who have on all Occasions declared their Dislike of and Aversion to her Interest?
2. Whether one of those Protestors was not actually expell'd a former Parliament; for saying, the *Presbyterian* Church was inconsistent with Monarchy, or Words to that Purpose?

These Questions, I confess, I could say nothing to—But by Silence take them for granted—But if any body ask me at the same time, whether it does not plainly infer, that these Gentlemen have some other Aim, than the Security of the Church, in protesting that the Overture is not a sufficient Security; I must own, I should think my self oblig'd to answer in the Affirmative, and 'tis my Amazement, that the People, whose Zeal for that Church is so warm in *Scotland*, do not see it too.

Nor do I make any Question, but a little Time will open the Eyes of such, whose Designs are honest, to see, that when these Contraries act together, it must be to illustrate something; for *Contraries*, they say, illustrate, and my Meaning is, they will illustrate this Truth; that such People must have Designs, differing from what the Out-side of their Actions seem to import.

Thus, when some in *England* voted, talk'd Fact, and bluster'd for an Occasional-Bill to secure the Church, nothing could be plainer, than that the Security of the Church of *England* was the remotest Part of their Design.

Was ever two Nations so Party ridden?

Was ever Cause made up of so contradicting Circumstances in *England*? The *Non-Jurors*, *Papists*, *High-Flyers*, the Rakes, the Men of no Principles, or of Principles fatal to Morality as Religion; these set up all for Champions of the Church to rail at Hypocritie, as they call'd it, and cry out against double-fac'd Profession.

In like manner in *Scotland*, the unhappy Contradictions go too far, GOD and *Baal* are not serv'd together; but the Servants of GOD erect the Altars of *Baal*, and the Servants of *Baal* struggle for the Altars of the true God.

From thence it becomes very well worth Remark, what the Issue of this Matter may be, and what the separate Deligns of these People are.

If I should say Confusion, I doubt not, I should revive the Hopes of some, whose Steps that Way are too visibly push'd on to conceal their Meaning, and this in both Kingdoms.

But if I speak my own Opinion, I must own, I foresee the Union in the Event of all these things, Order must come out of all these Confusions. The God of Order serves the glorious Ends of his Providence—From the Issue of all the Confusions and Overturnings in the World.

But I foresee it too, from human Consequences; for in my general Observations of things it cannot be otherwise; the honest well-meaning People of *Scotland* cannot be long hood-wink'd by the Subtilty and Artifices of these Men—They will at last see the Finger of *Joab* in all these things, and learn, that it cannot be a Love to their Interest and Establishment, that obliges a Party to espouse them in such a Juncture, who never valued them before, either as to Liberty or Religion; who never espous'd their Quarrel, whether Ecclesiastical or National; it must be a Cant, and meer ringing the Bells backward, to hear Men talk of Privileges and Church-Security, who are known to be open Abettors of an abdicated Interest, and that sincerely wish the Overthrow of the Nation, as to Sacred or Civil Settlements.

When therefore these things come a little farther, I fear nothing for the Union; honest



neft meaning, will gain Intelligence, and the Eyes of thofe, who were made blind by fine Words, will be open'd—— Union will fpring out of all thefe Confufions, and the Force of Equity and fair Reasoning will reduce Men to their Sences, whom National Prejudices and Popular Arguments have feduc'd to ftand in the Light of their own Happinefs.

I know 'tis objected, that the Number of Addreffes from all parts of the Kingdom of *Scotland*, looks with a dull Afpect, againft the Nature of the thing, and two Ufes our

Enemies make of this Obfervation.

1. That the general Sent of the Nation is againft the Union.
2. That if they do come into it by the Parliamentary Majority, they will yet retain fuch a rivett'd Aversion to *England*, that it will be a Union and no Union; it will encrease our Divifions, and we had better be without it.

I fhall adjourn my Answer to this, in order to divert the Reader a little, and fpeak at large to it in the next.

## MISCELLANEA.

THE Gentleman, that put the Author to about 10d. Charge for the Poftage of the Letter, which brought the following Queftion, I doubt not, had a great Defire to be answer'd; but I muft tell him, if he had fent it to Mr. *Matthews*, it would have been convey'd with lefs Charge, and have been as readily answer'd.

Mr. REVIEW,

THO' you are a great Way off, I find, you are not out of Hearing of the Affairs of the World: Pray, will you oblige us fo far, as to give us your Opinion of the fuprizing News of the Peace between the King of *Poland* and the *Swedes*——That Prince was once your Heroe, pray, what Part do you think he has afted now? if you please to fay fomething to this, you will divert the World, and oblige

Your humble Servant unknown.

A. T.

I confeß, this Queftion requires to be taken to peices; and firft, I am told, the King of *Poland* was my Hero, to which I answer, I am lefs afham'd to own, I had always a great Regard to the Personal Valour and extraordinary Character of the King of *Poland*——His changing his Religion, and his invading the Province of *Livonia*, make no Alteration in this Opinion, any farther than this, that then I muft de-

send no Man that miftakes; for in all I ever faid, I never made the leaft Offer to defend thefe Miftakes: A Prince may be a—very well worth my Esteem, that may not do every thing that demands my Esteem; nor have I any thing to do with the Failings of his *Polish* Majesty; without doubt he was ill advifed in both, and Providence has appear'd but too plain againft him; and I hope, is now bringing him back by his Afflictions to a right State, as well as Principle; but I take this to be no Part of the Queftion——

Let any Man trace his *Polish* Majesty thro' all the Meanders of the War, he has been engag'd in; the powerful Nation, the vigorous Prince, and the Politick Counfellors he had to do with; the faithlefs, timorous and mercenary Nation he has commanded; the bluffing, barbarous and unperforming Ally he has been leagued with——Add to this, the many Battles he has loßt, the frequent Surprizes he has been under; how often betray'd by the *Poles*, how bafely serv'd after Oaths taken, and Money paid to them; and add to this, that the *Swede* was now gotten into his own Hereditary Country, was ruining his Subjects, pillaging their plentiful Villages, and levying vaß Sums on the rich Cities; and the Confequence of all confider'd; I think, he has afted the Part of a wife Man, a Father of his Country, and one